

Alaska NAVTEX Services

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1. Purpose. The NAVTEX service procedures in the Alaska Region are described to augment the procedures in NWSI 10-311.

4. NAVTEX Forecasts.

4.1 Mission Connection. NAVTEX forecasts support the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS). The NAVTEX forecast is a text forecast issued to accommodate broadcast restrictions of the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) NAVTEX transmitters. NAVTEX forecasts provide forecast and warning information to mariners who travel on the oceanic waters adjacent to the U.S. and its territorial coastal waters, and serve customers who operate from the coastal waters to several hundred nautical miles from shore.

4.2 Issuance Guidelines. In Alaska, the coastal waters zones extend 100 nautical miles (nm) offshore, so the suite of Alaska NAVTEX products includes separate forecasts for both the coastal waters and offshore zones.

4.2.1 Creation Software. Weather Forecast Offices (WFO) should produce the NAVTEX product using software formatters requiring little or no post editing.

4.2.2 Issuance Criteria. Alaska NAVTEX forecasts should be produced as part of the twice daily marine package that includes Offshore Marine Forecasts (OFF) and the Coastal Waters Forecasts (CWF).

4.2.3 Issuance Time. Issuance times for the NAVTEX forecast will be the same as for the OFF and CWF. The NAVTEX forecast will be issued immediately following the OFF and CWF.

4.3 Technical Description. NAVTEX forecasts will follow the format and content described in this section.

4.3.2 Mass News Disseminator (MND) Heading. The NAVTEX Forecast MND Headings for Alaska are listed in the tables below.

The following NWS marine products are broadcast via the USCG Communications Station (COMMSTA) in Kodiak. Refer to NWSI 10-302, Section 4, NAVTEX Forecast Areas of Responsibility, for detailed descriptions of the areas.

Product	Issuing Office
NAVTEX Forecast for the Eastern Gulf Coastal Waters	WFO Juneau
NAVTEX Forecast for the North Gulf Coast+Kodiak+Cook Inlet	WFO Anchorage
NAVTEX Forecast for the Eastern Gulf of Alaska	WFO Juneau
NAVTEX Forecast for the Western Gulf of Alaska	WFO Anchorage

Table 1 – Products broadcast under the J identifier

Product	Issuing Office
NAVTEX Forecast for Southwest Alaska+Bristol Bay+the Alaska Peninsula Waters and the Aleutian Islands	WFO Anchorage
NAVTEX Forecast for the South Central Bering Sea	WFO Anchorage
NAVTEX Forecast for the Western Coastal Waters	WFO Fairbanks
NAVTEX Forecast for the Arctic Coastal Waters	WFO Fairbanks

Table 2 – Products broadcast under the X identifier Note: WFO Fairbanks currently issues one NAVTEX product covering the Western and Arctic Coastal Waters. The divided products will be implemented in April 2005.

4.3.3 Content. NAVTEX forecasts in Alaska are valid for the same geographic areas as the OFFs and CWFs; however, to accommodate the USCG’s broadcast restrictions, NAVTEX forecasts must be significantly shorter in length (89 lines or less). To accomplish this, the Alaska Region CWFs are modified into an unsegmented format before transmission. Also, NAVTEX CWF products cover only the first four forecast periods (day one and day two), although headlines may refer to significant conditions beyond day two. The NAVTEX versions of the OFFs will be issued verbatim.

4.3.4 Synopsis. Since the synopses in the OFF products should be very similar to the synopses in the CWFs, the NAVTEX versions of the CWFs should not contain synopses.

Exception: Western and Arctic Coastal Waters NAVTEX product should contain a synopsis, because the synopsis issued for the South Central Bering Sea does not typically cover this area.

4.4 Format. To ensure proper dissemination of the NAVTEX CWF forecast, follow the format shown in Figure 1.

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(WMO ID) (ISSUANCE TIME)
(AWIPS ID)

NAVTEX MARINE FORECAST
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE (CITY) (STATE)
(SCHEDULED ISSUANCE TIME) AM/PM (LOCAL TIME ZONE) (DAY) (DATE)

...PLEASE REFER TO COASTAL WATERS FORECASTS (CWF) AVAILABLE
THROUGH NOAA WEATHER RADIO AND OTHER MEANS FOR DETAILED
COASTLINE FORECASTS...

.SYNOPSIS... (WFO Fairbanks only)

(FORECAST AREA[S])

...HEADLINE(S) (if necessary)...

.Period 1...
.Period 2...
.Period 3...
.Period 4...

(FORECAST AREA[S])

...HEADLINE(S) (if necessary)...

.Period 1...
.Period 2...
.Period 3...
.Period 4...

(etc....)
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Figure 1 – Format for NAVTEX CWF forecast product

APPENDIX A - Example of a NWS Alaska NAVTEX Product

1. Example of a NAVTEX CWF Forecast.

FZAK61 PAJK 281250
OFFN11

NAVTEX MARINE FORECAST
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE JUNEAU ALASKA
400 AM AST TUE DEC 28 2004

SOUTHEAST ALASKA COASTAL WATERS FROM DIXON ENTRANCE TO
CAPE SUCKLING OUT 100 NM

...PLEASE REFER TO COASTAL WATERS FORECASTS (CWF) AVAILABLE
THROUGH NOAA WEATHER RADIO AND OTHER MEANS FOR DETAILED
COASTLINE FORECASTS...

DIXON ENTRANCE TO CAPE DECISION-

...SMALL CRAFT ADVISORY TODAY...
.TODAY...SW WINDS 30 KT. SEAS 19 FT.
.TONIGHT...SE WINDS 20 KT. SEAS 19 FT.
.WED...E WINDS 25 KT. SEAS 19 FT.
.WED NIGHT...N WINDS 30 KT. SEAS 14 FT.
.THU...NE WINDS 30 KT. SEAS 13 FT.

CAPE DECISION TO CAPE EDGE CUMBE-

...GALE WARNING THIS MORNING...
.TODAY...S WINDS 35 KT...DIMINISHING TO S 30 KT IN THE
AFTERNOON. SEAS 20 FT. RAIN. SHOWERS IN THE AFTERNOON.
.TONIGHT...SE WINDS INCREASING TO 30 KT LATE. SEAS 20 FT.
SHOWERS IN THE EVENING.
.WED...NE GALES TO 40 KT. SEAS 18 FT.
.WED NIGHT...NE GALES TO 40 KT. SEAS 14 FT.
.THU...NE GALES TO 40 KT. SEAS 14 FT.

CAPE EDGE CUMBE TO CAPE FAIRWEATHER-

...GALE WARNING THROUGH TONIGHT...
.TODAY...SE WINDS 40 KT...BECOMING NE IN THE AFTERNOON.
SEAS 17 FT. RAIN. SHOWERS IN THE AFTERNOON.
.TONIGHT...E WINDS 45 KT. SEAS 17 FT.
.WED...NE GALES TO 40 KT. SEAS 14 FT.
.WED NIGHT...NE GALES TO 40 KT. SEAS 14 FT. FREEZING SPRAY.
.THU...NE GALES TO 40 KT. SEAS 14 FT. FREEZING SPRAY.

CAPE FAIRWEATHER TO ICY CAPE-

...GALE WARNING THROUGH TONIGHT...
.TODAY...E WINDS 45 KT. GUSTS TO 55 KT FROM INTERIOR PASSES IN
THE AFTERNOON. SEAS 14 FT.
.TONIGHT...NE WINDS 45 KT. GUSTS TO 65 KT FROM INTERIOR PASSES.
SEAS 14 FT.
.WED...NE GALES TO 40 KT. SEAS 14 FT.

.WED NIGHT...NE GALES TO 40 KT. SEAS 12 FT. FREEZING SPRAY.
.THU...NE GALES TO 40 KT. SEAS 12 FT. FREEZING SPRAY.

ICY CAPE TO CAPE SUCKLING-

...GALE WARNING THROUGH TONIGHT...
.TODAY...N WINDS 35 KT...BECOMING NE 45 KT IN THE AFTERNOON.
GUSTS TO 55 KT FROM INTERIOR PASSES IN THE AFTERNOON. SEAS 12 FT.
.TONIGHT...NE WINDS 45 KT. GUSTS TO 65 KT FROM INTERIOR PASSES.
SEAS 11 FT.
.WED...NE GALES TO 40 KT. SEAS 12 FT.
.WED NIGHT...NE GALES TO 35 KT. SEAS 10 FT. FREEZING SPRAY.
.THU...E GALES TO 35 KT...DIMINISHING TO 30 KT IN THE AFTERNOON.
SEAS 8 FT. FREEZING SPRAY.

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